

1/10/76

Dear Phil,

Thanks for the card.

I guess I'm getting along OK.

The doctor trebled the time between checkups, which are prefatory. But after once dropping the level of anti-coagulant he rushed ~~in~~ it back to where it was, three times what it was when I was discharged from the hospital.

Most of the time I feel OK. I'm staying abed by force, to rest whether or not to sleep. Then when I walk, which I understand is good, I do it close to the limit. Nearing 63 and after all the sedentary months I've decided not to push too far. Today far enough was physically wearying. Weather permitting I do walk several time or more daily.

I can't say much more because I don't know any more. However, I put in more than a working day each day. Only this winter without cutting the firewood, etc. And accumulating weight I've gotta do something about.

I'm sorry we had to adopt a policy of no freebies. It surprises the press. We send no review copies. (Never a review of a book not advertised or by a commercial house anyway.) No freebies for the reporters, either. And when did they treat the news content of my books as news? You'll see much in Post Mortem.

What can become a problem for me is orders backing up. So while I have the time - no mail tomorrow, Sunday, and today's orders filled - I'll be packaging up a copy. Whenever you can you can pay.

The printer did well by us in many ways and with consideration. But his subcontractors have for the third time supplied the wrong sized envelope. Which adds to the packaging time. I do the packaging when I keep my legs elevated.

Since early October writing, for which I long, has been impossible. I've still not caught up on three months of filing. I do a bit at a time and now try not to get farther behind by more of less keeping up daily. I vary what I do, my position, etc.

One way or another, though, I do keep at it. With some success.

Best,